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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/587/Add.4)*]

54/211. Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/143 of 17 December 1991, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 50/105 of 20 December 1995 and 52/196 of 18 December 1997, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recognizing that the well-being of people is the overall goal of sustainable development,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

Stressing also that there is a need for a supportive and favourable national and international economic environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the outcomes of recent United Nations conferences,

Recognizing that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and the girl child,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

Recognizing also the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

Expressing concern at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and at the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

Stressing that developing countries should be assisted so that they can be well equipped with the knowledge of information technology that would enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and to avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

Emphasizing the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, *inter alia*, of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

3. *Urges* increased investments in all aspects of human development, such as education and training, health and nutrition, to achieve universal coverage and the well-being of all;

4. *Also urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, provision of basic social services, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women, involvement of youth, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

6. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

7. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations;

8. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas, with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate

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[2] A/54/408.

access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation;

9. *Encourages* the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and in technology in general, including by:

(*a*) Encouraging the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to donate voluntarily to designated centres in developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment and training, in order to facilitate improved access, as well as to make funds available for these purposes;

(*b*) Taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients or interested developing countries;

(*c*) Promoting transparent, efficient regulatory regimes and other policies that encourage investment;

(*d*) Supporting targeted investments in infrastructure that would establish the physical foundation for the operation of Internet services and pave the way for commercial and development applications;

(*e*) Developing training in information technologies for users such as non-governmental organizations, universities and business service organizations, as well as key governmental agencies;

10. *Calls upon* developing countries, with the support of the international community, to establish information, communication and electronic community centres, where appropriate and in cooperation with the private sector, in order to provide connectivity and access to information and knowledge;

11. *Calls upon* the developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities of developing countries for human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the contribution made by the United Nations system to advancing human resources development in developing countries through its operational activities, and to make recommendations to enhance further its impact;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999